

Name and Address

29<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**Direct Lines:** Martin Wilsher 01984 635334  
Toby Clempson 01984 635284

**E-mail:** [LDF@westsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:LDF@westsomerset.gov.uk)

Dear Sir,

**Our Ref:** TWC/Reg25/opt

**Re: West Somerset Core Strategy - Community and Stakeholder consultation on the development of strategy and policy options.**

Following the consultation exercise carried out in 2009 on the key issues which the West Somerset Core Strategy should be addressing in seeking to shape the future of the District's communities (outside the Exmoor National Park), the Core Strategy process is moving on to consider what sort of planning policies are needed to address the issues identified.

The Council has agreed on a list of 'critical issues' to be addressed, a series of Strategic Objectives and a draft Vision Statement describing the changes it is hoped to bring about by 2026. These are set out in the "West Somerset Core Strategy Options Paper" which is the subject of this consultation exercise. The Options Paper also includes suggested strategy options for accommodating major new development and a range of themed planning policy options (it is emphasised that options are not limited to those put forward for discussion).

The active involvement of the community and interested stakeholders is necessary in order to consider the relative merits of, and views on these options and to identify other options not included, so that the best combination of options to achieve the vision for the area can be identified.

This consultation is part of the frontloading stage of plan preparation which will sort out the difficult issues early on and lead on to the identification of a Preferred Strategy for the area, which will itself be subject to a further period of consultation.

**The consultation question on which views are currently being sought is as follows:**

**What kinds of planning policy are needed to address the important social, economic and environmental issues identified in the Options Paper? Please be as specific as you can be in expressing your views on the ideas set out in the Options Paper. Also, please give us your own ideas for the overall development strategy, and identify the planning policies you consider should be included (the actual policy wording is not required at this stage).**

**NB: It is very important that you tell us why you are recommending the strategy or policies that you put forward, and why you support or oppose options set out in the paper (please supply relevant supporting evidence if you can).**

**Please make any responses within the eight week consultation period which runs from Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> of May 2010.** This community / stakeholder involvement exercise is part of an ongoing process of discussion, meetings and correspondence.

It would be particularly helpful if you could make any response via the [www.westsomersetsays.com](http://www.westsomersetsays.com) website where

the full documentation may be downloaded. However, you may also respond via e-mail to [LDF@westsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:LDF@westsomerset.gov.uk) or by post to:

The Local Development Framework Team, West Somerset Council,  
West Somerset House, Killick Way, Williton, Somerset. TA4 4QA.

If we have contacted you by post, could you please let us know your e-mail address if you have one, for future reference. **If you no longer wish to be consulted on LDF documents please let us know and we will delete your records from our mailing list.**

**IMPORTANT: If you are no longer the relevant person to whom this consultation should be addressed I would be most grateful if you could pass it on to the appropriate person.**

**Enclosed are:**

- **The West Somerset Core Strategy Options Paper January 2010**
- **Two alternative response forms** ('full' and 'concise', please complete either, but not both forms. Equal weight would be attached to identical responses made on either form).
- **A Consultee information questionnaire,**  
(you are not obliged to complete this, but it would be helpful in the delivery of our services if you could please complete it and return it with your response – **NB: Information on individuals will not be linked to named correspondence information and will be held as summary data only.**)

**What other information is available to help you to take part?**

You may find some or all of the following helpful:

- A series of **consultation events** will be held during the consultation period, these will consist of a display board exhibition with planning policy officers in attendance. These are as follows:

<b>Williton</b>	West Somerset House, Williton	1.30pm to 7pm	Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Watchet</b>	Phoenix Centre, The Esplanade, Watchet	1.30pm to 7pm	Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Stogursey</b>	Victory Hall, Tower Hill, Stogursey	3pm to 7pm	Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> April
<b>Minehead</b>	Methodist Hall, The Avenue, Minehead	1.30pm to 7pm	Wed 21 <sup>st</sup> April
<b>Brushford</b>	Parish Hall, Brushford New Rd, Brushford	3pm to 7pm	Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> April
<b>Crowcombe</b>	Village Hall, Crowcombe	2.30pm to 6.30pm	Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> April

Further information on the Council's proposals for the Core Strategy and the LDF in general can be found on the Council's website: [www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk](http://www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk) where the LDF Statement of Community Involvement, Local Development Scheme and Annual Monitoring Report can be downloaded.

- An LDF newsletter is available.
- These documents can also be consulted at the Council's offices or at local libraries within the District.
- Please make responses via [www.westsomersetsays.com](http://www.westsomersetsays.com) if possible
- Government guidance on LDF core strategies is contained in Planning Policy Statement 12 – Creating strong, safe and prosperous communities through Local Spatial Planning, available to download free from [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully,

Toby Clempson,  
Principal Planning Officer, LDF